

HERCYNIA, A NEW GENUS OF MYRMICINE ANTS

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Among the ants sent to me from Panama there were two workers and a dealated female representing a new genus of the subfamily *Myrmicini* Lepeletier. Unfortunately only these three specimens were taken. The nest was under a stone; no other habit notes were given by the collector, who has promised to obtain more specimens if possible, and to study the habits of the new ant in greater detail.

The systematics of ants have been studied very thoroughly by Mayr, Forel, Emery, Wheeler, Santschi, and others, and it is not often that a new genus is found by modern collectors. In publishing on the new ant at this time the hope is entertained that others possessing material from Panama may find this ant among their unidentified specimens and may be able to add to the present scanty observations.

Hercynia, gen. nov.

(Plate V, Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4)

Genus diagnosis, workers and female,—

1. Clypeus prolonged between the frontal carinae.
2. Median spurs of the middle and hind tibiae not pectinate.
3. Head not distinctly cordate.
4. Frontal carinae distant from each other.
5. Postpetiole articulated as usual, not as in the tribe *Crematogastrini*.
6. Thorax of the workers without sutures but impressed in front of the epinotum; in the female the thoracic sclerites are well separated by sutures.
7. Antennae 11-jointed in both the workers and female.
8. Antennal scrobe shallow, bordered medially by the frontal carinae.
9. Funiculi with a club; scrobes not shaped as in the *Cryptoceerini* F. Smith.
10. Scrobe bordered laterally by a distinct carina passing above the eyes.
11. Antennal club 2-jointed with the last two joints prominent. Workers monomorphic.

(This diagnosis was drawn up with the distinguishing characters in the same order as given in Wheeler's key 1922.)

The new genus is close to the new world genera *Ochetomyrmex* Mayr and *Wasmannia* Forel, of the tribe *Ochetomyrmicini*. The new genus differs from the other two genera of the tribe by having the antennal club 2-jointed and the carinae of the cheeks placed differently. It resembles the genus *Wasmannia* in the conformation of the clypeus which, however, is bicarinate in *Wasmannia*, and the female of the latter is not much larger than the worker.

The definition of the tribe *Ochetomyrmicini* must be amended so it will include the new genus, by changing the old wording "antennal club 3-jointed" to the new wording "antennal club 2- or 3-jointed." The alternative to the amending of the tribus definition would be to erect a new tribe for the aberrant genus.

***Hercynia panamana*, spec. nov.**

WORKER.—Length 1.6 mm. Monomorphic; color uniformly pale yellow. Head oval, with feebly excised posterior edge. Clypeus elevated in the middle, the elevated portion hillock-shaped, its flat anterior part with a rounded projection anteriorly. Frontal triangle absent. Frontal carinae far apart and continued backward to the occipital corners, forming the upper border of a shallow scrobe on each side. Lower border of the scrobe formed by a carina on the cheeks, which runs above the relatively large compound eyes. Antennal scapes slender, curved at the base, reaching the posterior edge of the head. Antennal funiculus slender, with 10 joints, the first and last two joints larger than the remaining ones. Joints 2-8 small, as long as broad. The last two joints forming a two-jointed club. The surface of the head is longitudinally rugulose punctate above, reticulate on the fundus of the scrobe and sharply longitudinally striated on the cheeks. The posterior edge of the head appears straight from above but deeply excavated at the junction of the head and neck.

Thorax without sutures but shallowly and widely impressed in front of the epinotum. Prothorax broad and set off from the neck by a sharp transverse edge. Laterally the thorax is much narrowed in the mesonotal region. The epinotum is armed with two oblique slender spines nearly twice as long as their distance apart at the base. The entire thorax is strongly punctate and the pronotum has in addition a few irregular rugae. The petiole is about twice as long as broad with a long slender peduncle in front and is surmounted by a rectangular node. The postpetiole is as long as broad, broader than the petiole and nearly hemispherical in outline from above. Both the petiole and the postpetiole are unarmed below. The sculpture of the pedicel consists of dense punctation.

The gaster is oval, microscopically punctate and very transparent. Head, thorax and pedicel are opaque, the gaster very shiny. The pubescence is absent from the entire body. Long erect hairs are present but sparse. All the hairs appear as if they were sculptured with punctation.

Described from two workers taken near the volcano Chiriqui on the west coast of Panama.

Holotype No. 5a in my collection.

FEMALE.—The single deãlated female is considerably larger than the worker, measuring about 4.5 mm. in length. Color light brown, the gaster a little darker. Head broader than long (longer than broad in the worker), with a straight posterior border. Mandibles triangular, with 4 teeth, the apical tooth larger than the others; strongly longitudinally rugose. Clypeus as in the worker. Antennal scrobes much more marked than in the worker and deeper. Head above strongly longitudinally rugose and punctate. Fundus of the scrobe punctate (reticulate in the worker). Cheeks and temples strongly longitudinally rugose punctate. Ocelli well developed, the anterior one placed in a smooth pit.

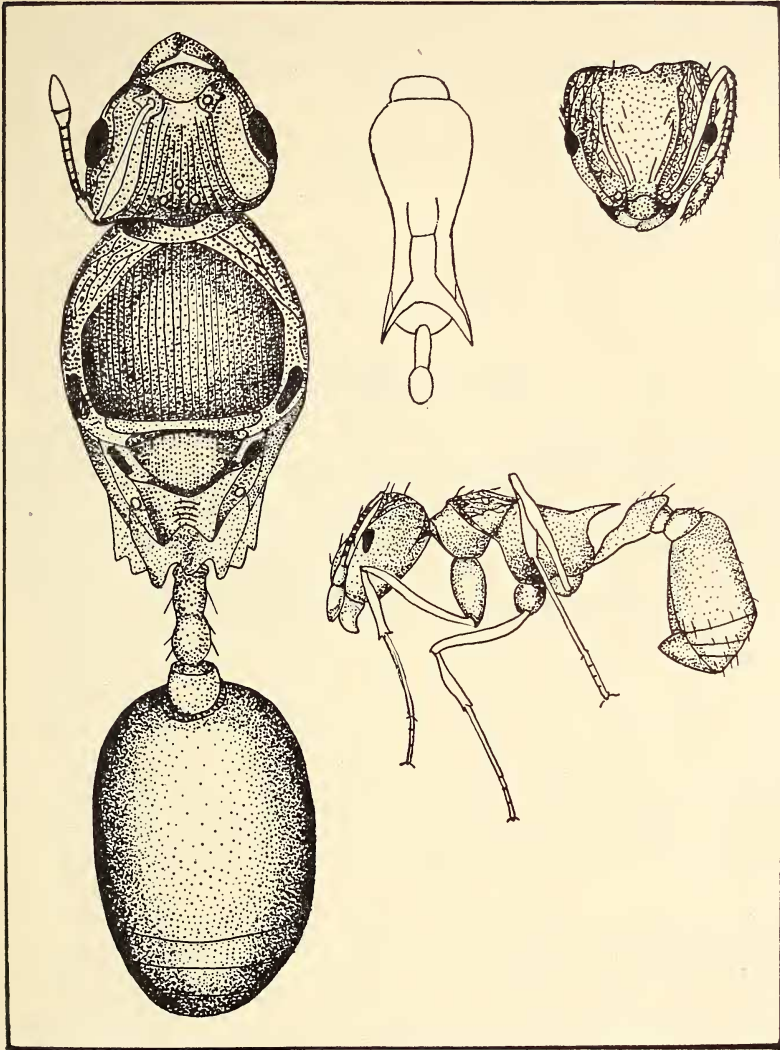
Thorax in profile arched, the pro and mesothorax together forming an elevated hump. The epinotal declivity is long and bears above a pair of flat short, pointed spines and below near the articulation with the peduncle a flat lamella on each side. Dorsally the sclerites are well marked off by sutures. The pronotum is reduced to a narrow ring behind the neck, while the scutum is very large and arched. The paraptera are represented by small lateral triangles joined by a transverse ridge. The scutellum is a small transverse oval. The metanotum is prominent. The epimerites and sternites are also well marked off by sutures. The entire thorax is strongly rugulose and punctate. The space between the epinotal spines is transversely rugulose. The space between the lower lamellæ is longitudinally striated.

The pedicel and gaster are shaped much as in the worker, but the first node is transverse in the female. The base of the gaster is finely shagreened. Pubescence absent as in the worker but the erect hairs are more numerous especially on the thorax and gaster.

Gynetype No. 5b in my collection.

PLATE V

- Left: Female of *Hercynia panamana*, dorsal view.
Upper right: Head of the worker from the front.
Upper center: Thorax of the worker seen from above.
Lower right: Worker in profile.



HERCYNIA PANAMANA